



## Regular Board of Directors MEETING NOTES | September 11, 2023

### Design Services for Overhead to Underground Conversion of William J. Bryan Phase II Project

The Board approved a change order with McCord Engineering, Inc. for design of the conversion of overhead to underground electric facilities for Phase II of the William J. Bryan Project.

### Contract Renewal for Overhead Unit Services

The Board approved a contract renewal with Southern Electric Corporation of Mississippi, Inc. for overhead unit services.

### Contract Approval for Tree Trimming

The Board approved a contract with Nelson Tree Service, Inc. for FY24 line clearance and tree trimming services.

### Contract Approval for FY24 CIP Projects

The Board approved a contract with Southern Electric Corporation of Mississippi, Inc. for select FY24 CIP Projects.



## BTU KIOSKS

Pay using cash, card or check at any one of our three convenient locations by entering your account number, listed on either your bill or your reminder letter, or by scanning a keycard provided by BTU. Keycards can be requested in the BTU main office.

### KIOSK LOCATIONS

- BTU Drive Thru – open 24 hours
- HEB at Texas Ave. & Hwy 21 – open 6am-12am
- HEB in the Tejas Center – open 6am-12am

## BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: [ContactBTU@btutilities.com](mailto:ContactBTU@btutilities.com)

## btutilities.com

### Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

### Board of Directors

Ms. Rosemarie L. Selman, Chair

Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Vice Chair

Mr. Paul Madison, Sr., Secretary

Mr. John A. Bond

Mr. Andrew Nelson

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

Mr. Buppy Simank

Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

Mr. Kevin Boriskie, Ex-Officio

### General Manager

Gary Miller

### Executive Directors

Doug Lyles

Randy Trimble

Wes Williams

David Werley, Chief Business Officer

### Division Managers

James Bodine

Nick Cook

Shawndra Curry

Ken Lindberg

Clay Lindstrom

Gary Massey

Mary Downs

### City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager

William J. Smith, Chief Financial Officer

## Important Numbers

### Billing/Collections/Connects

(979) 821-5700

### Electrical Outage/Lines Down

(979) 822-3777

### Line Design

(979) 821-5770

## Social Media

BryanTexasUtilities



BTU\_BryanTX



cityofbryan



# VETERANS DAY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

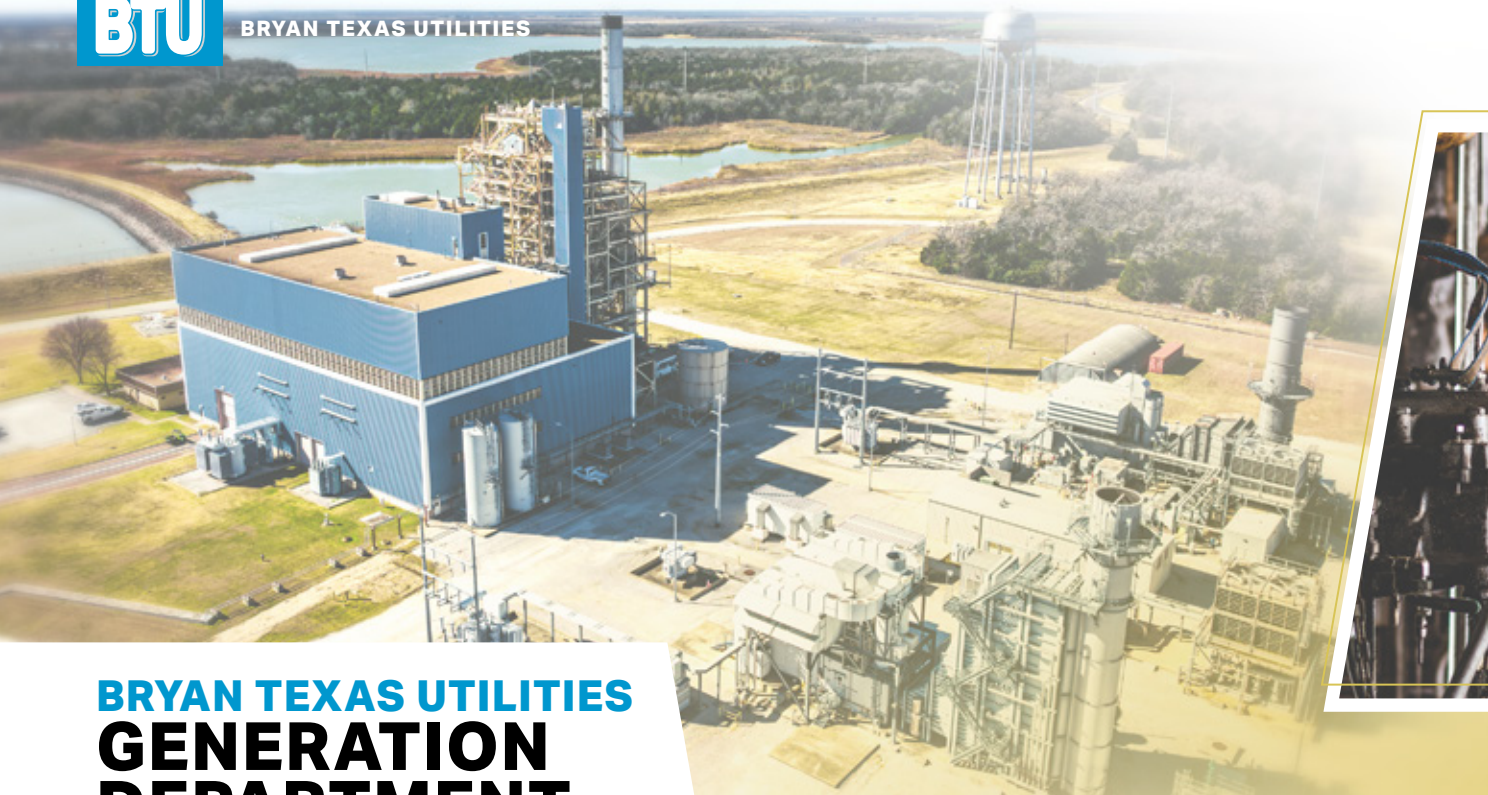
As we observe Veterans Day, it's a time not only to reflect on the sacrifices made by our veterans but also to express our heartfelt gratitude. These brave men and women have given of themselves, often in the face of great adversity, to protect our freedoms and uphold the values that make our country exceptional.

In communities across the nation, we are fortunate to have veterans among us—neighbors, friends, and family members who have served with honor. They have defended our liberty, and their stories are a testament to the resilience of the American spirit.

It's not enough to simply acknowledge our veterans on this day; we must also ensure they receive the support and recognition they deserve year-round. Many organizations and communities offer services to veterans, ranging from employment assistance to health care access and more. Supporting these initiatives is a way to show our enduring gratitude.

To our veterans, we say thank you. Your service inspires us, your dedication humbles us, and your sacrifices remind us of the profound debt of gratitude we owe. You are our heroes, and we are forever grateful for your service. On this Veterans Day and every day, let us stand together in solidarity, with hearts full of appreciation, and remember the words of President John F. Kennedy:

***"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."***



## BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES GENERATION DEPARTMENT

### 40 Years of Dedication, Innovation, and Resilience

Bryan Texas Utilities has been a pillar of reliability and support for the community for more than a century. One of the core pieces of BTU's story is the Generation Department. The Generation Department operates and maintains four generating units in Brazos County. The units serve as a physical hedge against energy market volatility. When prices soar in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) energy market, BTU can generate power at cost to cover its own load or to sell services to other utilities. This helps to keep costs low and stable for BTU customers.

The Roland C. Dansby Power Plant, named for a former Bryan Mayor, is home to three of those generating units. The oldest unit, commissioned in 1978, is Dansby 1, a natural gas-fired steam unit capable of producing 105 megawatts (MW). For reference, one megawatt can power between 400 and 900 homes. Lake Bryan, adjacent to Dansby 1, is not just a scenic addition but a crucial component of its operation, serving as the cooling source for the power plant. Although the lake water is piped through the plant for cooling, plant water and lake water are kept separate such that no additional chemicals or additives

are introduced into the lake. Lake Bryan and the Dansby Power Plant are located at one of the highest elevations in Brazos County. One can simultaneously catch a hint of the scoreboard at Kyle Field and see the Brazos River bottom from the top of the 240 foot boiler.

Dansby 2 and Dansby 3, commissioned in 2004 and 2009 respectively, expanded BTU's generating capacity during a period of exceptional load growth. These units are GE LM6000 aero-derivative gas turbines, meaning they are very similar to engines found on a jet airplane. They are capable of producing about 48 MW each and have the ability to start and stop very quickly, which is helpful in the ERCOT market. Atkins 7, located on Atkins Street in the heart of Bryan, is a remnant of a former BTU power plant. Atkins 7 is a smaller natural gas fired unit that has been in operation since 1973. The unit can be controlled remotely by power plant operators located at the Dansby Power Plant. Each unit plays a unique and pivotal role comprising BTU's energy portfolio. The operation of these four units are controlled by at least a three-man team around the clock, a testament to BTU's commitment to delivering reliable energy.



Dansby 2



Dansby 3



Lake Bryan

Safety is paramount at BTU, particularly in the Generation Department, given the risks associated with its work. Working with rotating machinery, electricity, 1000-degree steam at 1800 psi and natural gas is a daily occurrence. Every task is assessed for potential hazards prior to work beginning. The goal is for every employee to go home safely to their families each day.

Behind the machines and impressive statistics is a human touch. The team, comprising 23 professionals, includes power plant operators, maintenance experts, and management or administrative personnel. The Generation Department at BTU isn't just a workplace; it's a close-knit community. Employees bond over shared meals, laughs and weathering tough times together, creating a sense of camaraderie. Generational learning is also a hallmark of the department, where seasoned professionals pass down their knowledge to the next generation. One remarkable fact is one of BTU's longest-serving active employees, with an astounding 40 years of service - and counting - proudly calls the Generation Department home.

Working in the Generation Department requires an interesting combination of both highly specialized skills and handyman versatility. In the words of Nick Cook, Division Manager of Generation, "It's constantly changing, always a new challenge, something different every day." Their responsibilities include maintaining equipment to ensure peak performance, seeking to improve efficiency, and complying with the ever-evolving regulations and requirements from entities like ERCOT and the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Winter Storm Uri proved to be one of the most challenging



Dansby Power Plant during Winter Storm Uri

times for BTU's Generation Department. When several generation plants across Texas were incapacitated due to cold temperatures, all of BTU's units ran without issue. Successful operations during these difficult conditions was all thanks to the dedicated staff's tireless work, and also due to support from other BTU departments. Since then, the department has further invested in weatherization measures to enhance resiliency against adverse weather conditions.

With a rich history, an unwavering commitment to safety and efficiency, and a close-knit community of experts, BTU's Generation Department continues to power the future while helping keep rates affordable for the community they serve. Their legacy is one of dedication, innovation, and resilience, and their vision is one of both stability and progress.

# Festive & Frugal

## Saving Energy During the Holidays

'Tis the season to be jolly, but it's also a time when energy usage can skyrocket faster than Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. As we gear up for Thanksgiving feasts and the holiday glow of Christmas, why not make it a point to spread the holiday cheer to your energy bills, too?



Use a dishwasher



LED lights



**SmartHOME**  
saving makes sense

♪ **'Come they told me,  
pa-rum-pum-pum-pum,  
roast the turkey,  
pa-rum-pum-pum-pum.**

When cooking for Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts, be mindful of your energy usage. Try using glass or ceramic dishes, as they retain heat better than metal ones. Use the microwave or slow cooker for smaller dishes. If using the oven, try not to peek! Each time you open the oven, it can lower the temperature by 25°F, which uses more energy to heat to the desired temperature.

♪ **'Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow,  
as long as I've got my cozy throw!**

Instead of cranking up the thermostat, snuggle up with a warm blanket and a hot drink. You'll feel toasty without spending extra on your energy bill.

♪ **'Don't be a turkey!**

Carve out some energy efficiency in the kitchen. Scrape used plates instead of rinsing with hot water. Use the dishwasher instead of handwashing; dishwashers use less energy and water than washing dishes by hand.

♪ **'May your days be merry and bright!**

LED holiday lighting is much more energy efficient than traditional lights, costing under a dollar to power for an entire season compared to ten dollars for traditional lights according to the U.S. Department of Energy. LEDs also put off less heat and are made of plastic instead of glass, reducing the safety risk of a fire hazard or breaking bulbs. LED lights are not only more energy-efficient but also last longer, meaning you can enjoy that festive glow for many holidays to come.



**Programmable thermostat**



**Caulk leaks**



**Insulation**

## ♪ Jingle Bell Time is a swell time to invest in energy savings!

Investing in a programmable thermostat is like having your very own holiday helper. Set it to lower the temperature when you're away or sleeping and raise it when you're home and hosting guests. It's a gift that keeps on giving – lower energy bills throughout the year!

## ♪ Baby, it's cold outside, but it's cozy in here!

Seal any gaps and cracks in your home to prevent cold drafts from entering. You can use weatherstripping and caulk to seal leaks around doors and windows. This way, you won't have to crank up the heat as high to stay warm.

## ♪ Rockin' around the Christmas tree, let's turn off our lights and save some energy!

Remember to unplug decorative lights and electronic decorations when you are not enjoying them. You can also use smart plugs or timers to automate this process, ensuring your home sparkles only when you want it to.

## ♪ The weather outside is frightful, but it doesn't have to be inside!

Proper insulation in a home's attic and exterior walls is essential to keeping your home comfortable and keeping money in your pocket. The US Department of Energy recommends at least an R-38 level of insulation in the attic for this area of Texas. If you upgrade your insulation, you may qualify for a rebate through BTU's SmartHOME Program. Visit our website for more information.

## ♪ Santa Claus is coming to town, and so are all of your relatives.

Laundry and dishes will pile up with extra people dirtying them. Run full loads of laundry and the dishwasher to use your energy efficiently and conserve water.

## ♪ On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... energy efficient gifts under the tree!



Choose gifts that are EnergyStar® rated models. Appliances such as refrigerators and dishwashers, electronics such as televisions and computers, and lighting all have models that are EnergyStar® rated. They use up to 60% less energy than non-certified models.

## ♪ Up on the housetop, click, click, click. Down through the chimney with good St. Nick!

Make sure you properly maintain your chimney by having it serviced by a professional. Keep the damper closed unless you have a fire burning, check the seals around the flue, and consider insulating your chimney so you aren't toasting your money along with your buns.

**Happy holidays, and may your season be both festive and frugal!**

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

BTU

THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU

2024

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

YOUTH  
TOURApplications are  
**NOW OPEN!****The  
Where**

Students from Texas meet up in our state capital, Austin, TX, for a couple of days of touring memorials and museums to learn about state history. Students then travel by chartered flight to Washington D.C. for a week of fun-filled days touring attractions and historical sites.

**The Who**

Three local high school students will be chosen as winners for the trip. To be eligible students must be a sophomore, junior, or senior in high school and either live in or attend school in the BTU service territory.

**All applicants must apply online at:**  
**[btutilities.com/youthtour](https://btutilities.com/youthtour)**

Candidates will be judged on their responses to an essay question, their extracurricular activities, and academic and civic leadership.

**The When**

**Applications are currently being accepted through February 1, 2024.**

**The trip will take place June 16-23, 2024.**

**The Why**

The idea to send students to Washington D.C. came from President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texan who advocated for rural electrification and youth development. In 1957, when he was still a U.S. senator, Johnson suggested "sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

This notion evolved in the 1960s into a nationwide effort to send young people on organized, fun and educational trips to the nation's capital. Today, electric utilities from nearly every state send more than 1,500 youths to Washington, D.C. each June. Since 1965, more than 50,000 students have toured the capital thanks to their local utilities.

Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) is committed to powering and empowering the community we serve, and that means providing more than electricity. BTU also works to improve quality of life in the Brazos Valley, which includes investing in the area's young people. We are working to shape tomorrow's leaders by proudly sponsoring three local high school students to attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

**Apply online today at [btutilities.com/youthtour](https://btutilities.com/youthtour)**

Annual  
Downtown Bryan  
Holiday Stroll &  
Lighted Parade

## CITY OF BRYAN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Event	Date	Time	Location
<b>Lights On!</b> <i>In Historic Downtown Bryan</i>	Friday, <b>November 17</b>	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	110 South Main Street
Destination Bryan will kick off the holiday season in Bryan, Texas with the annual Lights On! Help us countdown to turn on thousands of lights along Main Street and Bryan Avenue to illuminate picturesque Historic Downtown Bryan. This free, family-friendly event will include holiday photo backdrop stations, live music, and a special appearance by Santa Claus.			
<b>Holiday Magic</b> <i>at Sue Haswell Memorial Park</i>	Thursday, <b>November 30</b>	5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.	1142 East William Joel Bryan Parkway
Enjoy snow hills, pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, train rides, games and more brought to you by the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department! Park at Blinn College to take advantage the free shuttle service.			
<b>DOWNTOWN BRYAN Holiday Stroll &amp; Lighted Parade</b>	Thursday, <b>December 7</b>	6 p.m. – 9 p.m.	110 South Main Street
Stroll around Historic Downtown Bryan for an evening of holiday cheer, merriment, and even mark off some of your holiday shopping list! The lighted parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. and this year's theme is Howdy Holidays. Destination Bryan is accepting float applications.			